

A1
cont.

providing a column chamber, the column chamber having an inlet end and an outlet end, the outlet end having an actuator port and a flow port, the flow port alternately open or partially obstructed by a binary end of a rod placed in the actuator port, the flow port first partially obstructed with the binary end; and

flowing a mixture of the first fluid and the matrix material into the column chamber through the inlet end for packing the matrix material within the column chamber.

Please cancel claims 18-20.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

The Title is changed to reflect the scope of elected claims. Claim 5 is amended to recite the flow port being "partially obstructed" instead of "obstructed" to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 12, lines 18-19, and in the other independent claims (claims 1, 8, and 17). Claims 18-20 have been canceled because they represent non-elected claims submitted in the amendment filed 1/14/00 (Paper No. 2) in response to a restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121.

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Rigby (U.S. Patent No. 2,797,150). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and provides the following arguments to overcome these rejections.

The Examiner has asserted that, in regard to the column-based separations the Applicant has shown as known in the art (Figs. 4a and 4b), claims 1-17 differ only by the "use of a valve having a rotatable rod having a 'binary' end." The Examiner then states that Rigby discloses a "valve member